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This Month at Arizona Ready...

JANUARY 2014

Dear Friends and Supporters,

January is always an exciting month at the Capitol with the start of Legislative Session and the unveiling of the Governor's policy priorities and budget proposal. But amidst all of the policy-making excitement our office was particularly thrilled to hold our first official Parent Ambassador meeting at the Capitol.

Our Parent Ambassador Program is a fairly new initiative we launched in an effort to connect with parents in a more meaningful way. It is an avenue for parents to become more engaged with statewide education reforms and decisions, and for us to learn more about what is happening at a local level. It is open to parents statewide and has flexible times, locations, and activities.

Our first official event was a day at the Capitol for a great group of parent volunteers. They attended an Arizona Ready Education Council meeting, heard from Read On Arizona and Expect More Arizona about opportunities to get involved, and shared issues/strategies from various parts of the state. It was an informational but interactive day, and we were impressed with the enthusiasm of the parents who came. Their insight and drive to make a difference in their communities and schools was quite inspiring.

With so many changes happening within education in Arizona it can be difficult for all of us to keep our eye on the end goals. It is absolutely essential that we have open lines of communication between those working at a statewide level and parents, who are essential partners in education at every level. It is especially critical for parents to know the vision of the State in addition to what is happening in their child(ren)'s classroom. Shaping that context can help give all of us a common ground to build upon, and we expect the Parent Ambassador program to be a great platform to do just that.

Although the program is up and running, we are always accepting new participants. If you are interested, please email us at azready@az.gov. By working together and engaging in meaningful communications everyone in the community can help elevate education for all of Arizona's students.

Sincerely,
The Arizona Ready Team